

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** PETER DOUGLAS, et al.

**Examiner:** unassigned

**Serial No:** unassigned

**Art Unit:** unassigned

**Filed:** herewith

**Docket:** ETH-5099 (16356)

**For:** VARIABLE STIFFNESS SHAFT

**Dated:** December 15, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,618,307 issued to Donlon et al., dated April 8, 1997.
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,626,607 issued to Malecki et al. dated May 6, 1997.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313 on December 15, 2003.

**Dated:** December 15, 2003

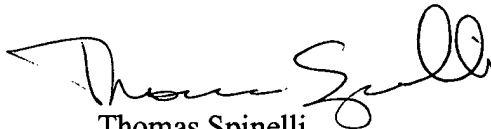
  
Thomas Spinelli

3. U.S. Patent No. 5,749,828 issued to Solomon et al. dated May 12, 1998
4. U.S. Patent No. 6,139,563 issued to Cosgrove, III, et al. dated Oct. 31, 2000.
5. U.S. Patent No. 6,338,738 issued to Bellotti et al., dated January 15, 2002.
6. U.S. Patent No. 6,368,340 issued to Malecki et al., dated April 9, 2002.

Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Spinelli  
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number (Optional) <b>ETH-5099 (16356)</b>	Application Number <b>unassigned</b>
	Applicant(s) <b>PETER DOUGLAS, et al.</b>	
	Filing Date <b>herewith</b>	Group Art Unit <b>unassigned</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,618,307	4/8/97	Donlon et al.			
		5,626,607	5/6/97	Malecki et al.			
		5,749,828	5/12/98	Solomon et al.			
		6,139,563	10/31/00	Cosgrove, III, et al.			
		6,338,738	1/15/02	Bellotti et al.			
		6,368,340	4/9/02	Malecki et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.